(a) the details of programmes being chalked out to bring down the birth rate in the country;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target to bring down the birth rate for every thousand population during the next five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have directed the State Governments of impart advice to people for controlling the birth rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Family Welfare Programme provides counselling and medical services for better health of mothers and children to influence people's reporductive behaviour. It also provides information and services for different method of contraception, to bring down the Birth Rate in the country.

(b) and (c) No demographic goals have been fixed so far for the IX Plan.

(d) and (e) The Family Welfare Programme includes motivating the people to accept family planning methods appropriate to them. Such counselling is done in the PHCs and rural sub-Centres through doctors and health workers as well as through media and NGOs.

Geo-Synthetics

*506. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the geo-sythetics, the new construction material is being successfully used for various civil enginerring works including construction of roads in U.S. and other countries;

(b) whether India has started its research and technology in the field of geo-sythetics;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for setting up of geo-sythetic manufacturing industries in India especially in hill areas & natural disaster prone areas ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Considerable research has been carried out by various Institutions in India. Geo-synthetics has been used in construction of reinforced soil wall, drains, overlay and erosion prevention measures, etc. in limited cases because of its high costs.

(d) Setting up of manufacturing units in private sector depends upon market economy and demand for the material. There is no proposal on the part of the Government to start any such unit.

Linking of Rivers

*507. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level 9-Member National Commission has been constituted to link all big and small rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference;

(c) whether the experts and scientists have also been included in the proposed National Commission;

(d) by the what time the Government have asked them to submit their report;

(e) whether the Government have also conducted a survey to use the contaminated ground water in various States;

(f) whether the Government are committed for development of ground and surface water resources and whether any amount has been earmarked for these projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the provision of funds made therefore alongwith names of rivers to be taken up for inter linking ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan was set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/645-661, dt. 13.9.1996 with Dr. G.V.K. Rao as the Chairman. However, he resigned on health grounds. Subsequently Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as the Chairman vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/965-985, dt. 22.11.1996. He also expressed his inability to continue on account of other preoccupations. Thereafter, Dr. S.R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission was appointed as the Chairman of the Commission vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/182-206, dt. 14.2.1997.

The present Composition of the Commission is as under :-

1. Dr. S.R. Hashim : Chairman
Member,
Planning Commission

2.	Shri V. Ramachandran Ex-Chief Secretary Govt. of Kerala Thiruvananthapuram	:	Member
3.	Dr. V.S. Vyas (Economist) Director, Institute of Development Studies, 8-B Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur- 302004.	:	Member
4.	Dr. D.N. Tewari, Ex-Chancellor, F.R.I. (Deemed University) Dehradun (UP).	:	Member
5.	Shri S. Prakash, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking	:	Member
6.	Shri C.C. Patel Ex-Secretary (WR) Govt. of India	:	Member
7.	Dr. Bharat Singh Vice-Chancellor (Retd.) University of Roorkee	:	Member
8.	Shri S.P. Caprihan Engineer-in-Chief (Retd.) Government of M.P.	:	Member
9.	Director General, National Water Develop- ment Agency (NWDA), New Delhi.	:	Member Secretary

Other experts are being co-opted as Members or being associated with nine Working Groups, as required to assist the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as under :

(i) To prepare an Integrated Water Plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and Other uses;

(ii) To suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water-deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the above objectives;

(iii) To identify important On-going Projects as well as New Projects which should be completed on priority basis together with phasing;

(iv) Identify a technological and interdisciplinary research plan for the water sector with a view to maximise the benefits;

(v) To suggest physical and financial resource generatiion strategies for the water sector;

(vi) Any other releated issue.

The Report is likely to be submitted in two years time.

(e) The Central Ground Water Board monitors ground water quality in the country through a network of about 15000 existing hydrograph stations and additional about 2,000 stations to be constructed, to determine the usability of water for various purposes and tests the quality of water in bore holes Sunk during exploration.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Apart from giving technical advice through various organisations, several schemes are being implemented by the Government for development of ground and surface water.

National Water Development Agency, an organisation of the Ministry of Water Resources has identified 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component and 19 under the Himalayan Rivers Development Component for study. They are as under :-

Peninsular Rivers Development Component :

1. Mahanadi–Godavari link
2. Krishna (Srisailam)–Pennar link
3. Pennar (Gandikotta)–Palar-Cauvery link
4. Cauvery–Vaigai link
5. Godavari (Inchampalli)–Krishna (Nagar junasagar) link
6. Krishna (Nagar junasagar)–Pannar (Somasila) link
7. Krishna (Almatti)–Pennar link
8. Pennar (Somasila)–Palar-Cauvery (Coleroon) link
9. Godavari (Incahampalli)–Krishna (Pulichintala) link
10. Godavari (Polavaram)–Krishna (Vijayawada) link
11. Par–Tapi–Narmada link
12. Damanganga–Pinjal link
13. Pamba–Achankovil–Vaippar link
14. Bedti–Varda link
15. Netravati–Hemavati link
16. Ken Betwa link
17. Parbati–Kalisindh–Chambal link

Himalayan Rivers Development Component :

1. Kosi–Mechi
2. Kosi–Ghagra
3. Gandak–Ganga
4. Karnali–Yamuna
5. Sarda–Yamuna
6. Yamuna–Sirsa branch of Western Yamuna canal (Rajasthan)
7. Ganga–Sirhind canal
8. Tajewala–Bhakra
9. Harike–Tailend of Rajasthan canal
10. Extension of Rajasthan canal to Sabarmati
11. Chunar–Sone Barrage
12. Sone Barrage–Kiul
13. Sone Dam–Southern Tributary
14. Brahmaputra – Ganga (Manas–Sankosh–Teesta–Ganga)
15. Farakka–Sunderbans
16. Farakka–Durgapur
17. Durgapur–Dwarkeshwar
18. Durgapur–Subernarekha
19. Subernarekha–Mahanadi

Dengue Fever

*509. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether grant and fiancial assistance for research on Dengue Fever has been provided to the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (C.C.R.U.M.);

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned in this regard;

(c) whether the medicines for Dengue Fever were distributed in the public through Unani dispensaries or other-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of India permitted the Central Council of Research in Unani Medicine to utilise an amount of Rs. 8.00 lakhs to undertake medicare oriented research work on Dengue fever out of the budget provision of the Council for the year 1996-97 and no separate grant or financial assistance was provided to the Council for the purpose.

(c) and (d) The Council distributed the medicines for Dengue Fever to the public through its research Units and 'Majedia Hospital' in Delhi.

Three Tier System of Medical Services

*510. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have suggested rationalisation of medical services in the country and to adopt a three-tier system for providing medical facilities to the people at the village and district levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the suggestions made by the AIIMS; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implemented these suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) The three -tier system of rural health infrastructure in the village level has been adopted from the 5th Five Year Plan onwards. The system comprises of Sub-centres. Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres established on the bais of population norms. The services provided by the infrastructure include preventive, promotive and curative health care to the people dwelling in the area. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has not made any specific suggestion in this regard.

Infant Mortality

*511. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the large scale infant mortality in Andhra Pradesh and certain other States;

(b) if so, the action taken to check infant mortality in the States;

(c) the proposal received from those States to improve and augment the existing Family Welfare Programmes; and

(d) action being taken thereon ?